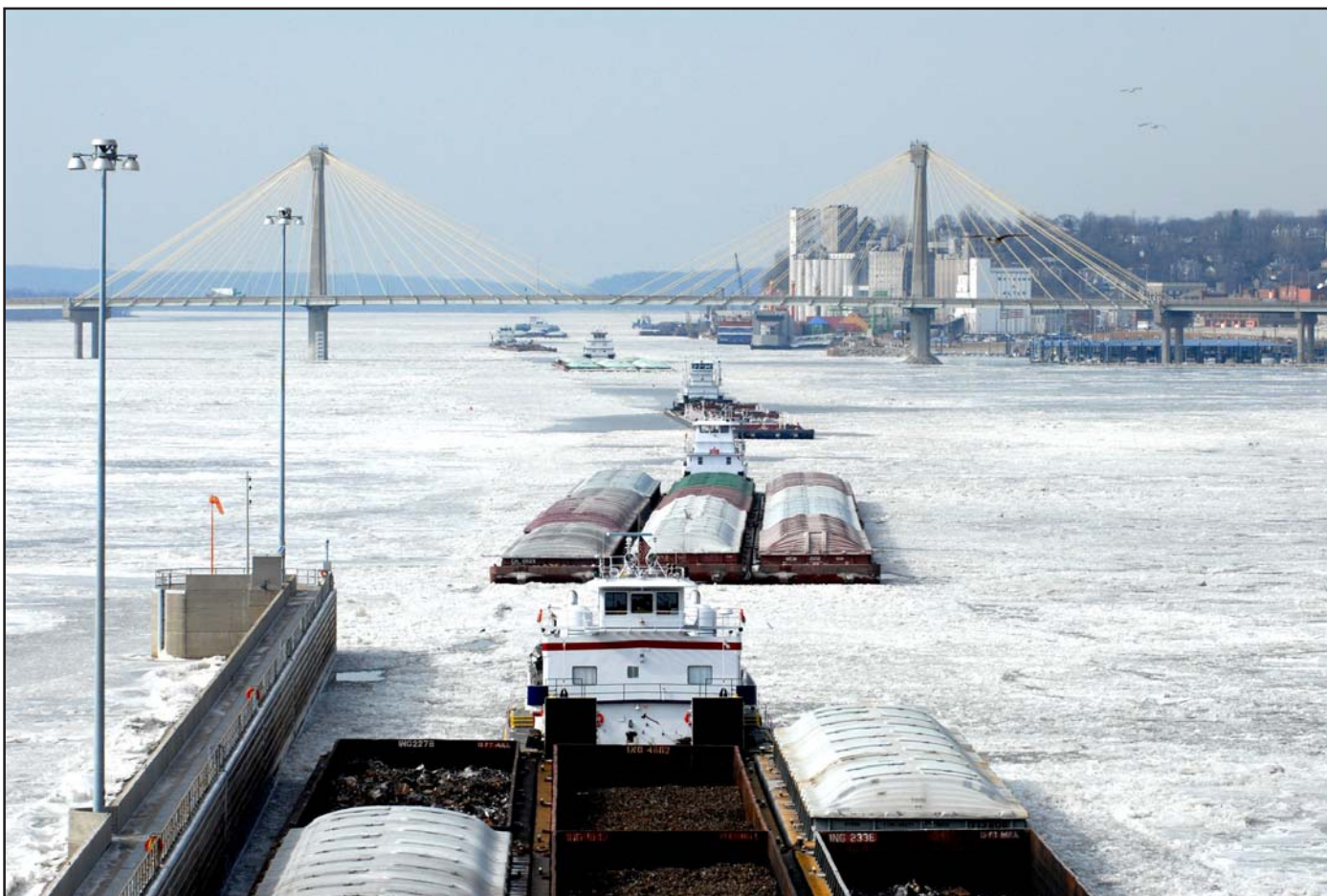


ST. LOUIS ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT *ESPRIT*

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February 2007



Seven barge tows queue upstream of the Melvin Price Locks and Dam main chamber on February 6, 2007 in their quest to lock southward before the frigid ice build up on the Mississippi River further hinders or halts traffic.

Frigid February Hampers Corps of Engineers Lock Operation

Bitterly cold weather that opened February over the Midwestern and Eastern states impacted operations at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Locks throughout the St. Louis District due to ice building up at those facilities.

While ice and snow caused delays on roads and highways throughout the upper

Midwest, their impacts were especially heavy on the river “highways” for the first two weeks of February. More than 60 percent of the nation’s grain exports are loaded at or pass through the St. Louis harbor. Other high volume shipments that depend on operation of the locks include salt for highway maintenance, coal for power plants and petroleum-based fuels and chemicals.

The Corps announced operating

restrictions from Lock 24 at Clarksville, Mo., southward to St. Louis, Saturday, Feb. 3. The announcement came after a 15-barge tow became stuck in the 1200-foot-long main chamber at the Melvin Price Locks and Dam near Alton, Ill., causing the lock’s main chamber to be closed for several hours.

The operating restrictions limited barge tows to no more than 106 feet in

Ice Problems Cont. page 3



Commander's Perspective



Col. Lewis F. Setliff III

As we shift to warmer weather I want to shift my focus down stream and eastward. I am speaking of the immense work still ahead in New Orleans and in continuing to prosecute our Army and nation's number one priority, the Global War on Terrorism.

In both areas, while many media reports indicate imminent failure and mismanagement, I can tell you that we are truly making great strides.

Iraqis throughout their nation are still under great stress from groups who would rather fail individually than succeed together. But they are seeing the effects of restored government services or in many cases, new ones, such as potable water distribution or sewage collection and processing.

While the citizens of New Orleans still face many uncertainties, they are already enjoying new levels of security from completed work. The time bought in early months after Katrina is now paying dividends as they are stepping back to

make balanced, well-advised decisions that are based in best science and engineering principles.

While many in our St. Louis family have served in one or both of these endeavors, neither is by any means completed. Both regions still demand the unique capabilities of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – to plan and execute complex projects, balancing competing needs and resources to get the jobs done.

Some calls to serve come via HR channels. Others come through your own "stovepipes" or from colleagues who are either seeking their own relief or who know of a really good opportunity that your skills may be a match for.

Whatever the source of the call, be sure to coordinate with your supervisor. Check too with HR and with our own Emergency Ops people who have a handle on everything you need to know and do to get involved properly.

Answering the call to the Gulf Coast or heading overseas for the GWOT both demand sacrifices. There are family separations and levels of risk. But those who have served will tell you – ask them – of the high levels of satisfaction they have achieved by turning off the light in their cube and answering the call. I know these people also are coming back with new skills and abilities – not the least of which is the confidence gained from doing tough jobs in difficult circumstances.

Consider the call. Consider the opportunity. Consider your answer.

Before I close, take a moment and circle 21 June on your calendar. The District is going to a professional minor league ball game. If you have never attended minor league baseball, you have a real treat in store. The CAC is working

on subsidies to help defray some of the costs. The game and the pre-game picnic festivities will be at the GCS stadium in Sauget, Ill., and will be between the Gateway Grizzlies and the Traverse City, Mich., Beach Bums who are bringing in Japanese minor league star Takeshi Yamamoto, after his two years of all star performance there. Now if there is a Yamamoto fan out there, I want to meet you before the game!

A final reminder to please be safe. We need each and every one of you to accomplish our mission. Practicing safe habits on and off duty is not only prudent, but necessary. We need you at work! So buckle up, wear that protective equipment, and be safe!

Hooah!

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US Army Corps of Engineers
St. Louis District®

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Ice Problems cont. from page 1



Barge tows traveling south on the Mississippi River on February 8, 2007, found themselves struggling through an almost alien environment of darkened water and massive sheets of ice. Extreme frigid weather slowed tows in their movement and eventually restricted their widths for passing through locks on the river.

Photo courtesy of St. Louis Post-Dispatch's Rob Cohen

width due to ice which built up on the walls of the 110-foot wide lock chambers. Originally set at 105 feet, they were relaxed to 106 feet at the Mel Price Locks after Corps-Industry-Coast Guard consultation Monday.

Hopper barges are 35 feet wide. Thus, a three-wide tow is approximately 105 feet wide. Other types of barges can be as much as 54 feet wide, with two side-by-side being 108 feet wide. These wider configurations were prohibited from locking.

Other weather-related issues included possible ice build-ups under the bows of some barge tows that could hamper them as they attempted to pass over concrete sills at the bottom of the lock gates when leaving the chambers. Ice forming in the recesses behind lock miter gates also

posed a potential problem making them difficult to open completely, further hampering and slowing operations.

The Feb. 3 closure ended after several hours when other tow boats were able to assist the stuck tow to exit the chamber.

Corps operations experts informed navigation interests that they expected restrictions to remain for at least a week due to the near freezing temperatures of the water moving southward and to the sub-freezing weather then predicted to prevail in the region throughout the week. North into Iowa, National Weather Service forecasts called for the coldest temperatures of the season and for early February the coldest in a decade

The announcement of the 106 foot restriction was the first such measure in

the District in several years. Ice, which started to form Saturday in still water behind dikes as far south as the Jefferson Barracks Bridge, continued moving south through the St. Louis Harbor for several days.

Further north at Clarksville and Winfield, Mo., tows continued to transit, breaking up to a foot of ice to do so. They cooperated by operating in groups to be able to assist each other while they are enroute to and from grain shippers sending commodity shipments south for overseas export through New Orleans.

Further north in the Rock Island District at Locks 20, 21 and 22, barge tows were restricted at a maximum width of 70 feet.

The St. Louis District further restricted width limits on barge tows



passing through the Melvin Price Locks near Alton, Ill., Wednesday morning, Feb. 7. Limitations were tightened to a maximum of 89 feet after a 12-barge tow became caught in the lock's 1200-foot main chamber at about 11:30 p.m. the night before. The lock's main chamber was reopened at about 4 a.m. Wednesday.

This decision, made reluctantly due to its impact on the barge industry, was made after coordination with barge industry representatives. Tows that were southbound on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers at the time, had to be reconfigured into two-wide tows vice their original three wide arrangements.

The combination of ice building up at Mississippi and Illinois River locks and decreasing water depths from St. Louis south, were closely watched by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, National Weather Service and navigation industry experts.

Width restrictions for barge tows transiting the Melvin Price Locks near Alton, Ill., remained in effect until Saturday, Feb. 17.

Corps officials relaxed restrictions after sunshine finally reduced the ice build up on the left descending, or Illinois wall (side closest to the Illinois



Ice builds up on the frigid concrete walls of the Melvin Price Locks and Dam 1200-foot main chamber.

shore) of the lock. Ice on the other wall was reduced by lock operators using steam and hot water to thaw it.

At the location of the Melvin Price Locks, the Mississippi River actually runs from west to east and the concrete lock chambers are oriented in that manner. The wall on the left side receives sunshine throughout much of the day while the wall on the right, or on the chamber's south side, is shaded from the sun.

Corps plans to counter icing consisted of more than simply waiting for the return of warm weather. All locks worked to flush ice southward as they were able to. At Lock 25, operators were able to lift the floating moring bits clear of the water to prevent their damage by ice. At Mel Price, hardy

workers used steam jets to melt and dislodge ice forming in miter gate recesses.

It was not only the locks that were hampered on the river by ice. Navigation aids also suffered.

In some places buoys were destroyed either by being crushed or sunk. In other places they were broken free from anchors. In still other locations their locations were shifted as ice pushed both the buoys and their anchors out of position.

The St. Louis M/V Pathfinder partnered with the U.S. Coast Guard, surveying river channels in and south of St. Louis, recovering buoys torn free from anchors and replacing numerous missing and damaged buoys. Pathfinder and her crew moved numerous other buoys back to proper positions.

It has been years since ice posed a threat to navigation in the St. Louis District. But just as they do through high and low water almost every year, a team made up of hydrologic and hydraulic branch engineers and experts from the operations division, in partnership with U.S. Coast Guard, National Weather Service and navigation industry representatives, came together to keep river traffic flowing in February 2007.

Protect Your Laptop and Your Data

Whether you travel with your laptop, leave it at work, or carry it home, it could be stolen. According to Symantic, a laptop is stolen every 53 seconds in the U.S. and 97 percent are never recovered. A good idea: physically bolt your laptop to a secure object.

Loss of the laptop is hard to take, but it is a replaceable item. The data on the laptop may not be. That may include financial records, private documents, or irreplaceable photos.

Encryption: At security software maker Pointsec Mobile Technologies, they say people think password

protection is enough, but it isn't. They recommend encryption programs, which require very strong passwords. You can check out encryption programs before you buy at download.com.



Backup: Backing up valuable information, especially while traveling, is important. Flash drives that snap into a laptop's Universal Serial Bus (USB) are tiny, fast, and inexpensive. But they are a good solution to protecting data. They range in price from about \$55 for 1 gigabyte of memory to \$80 for 2 GB.

Hot-spot danger: When logging online at a wireless hot spot such as a hotel or cafe, be aware that you might not be logging into a valid network.

Phishers or hackers position themselves near hospitals, companies, and coffee shops. According to Sentillion, a data-security company, thieves prowl personal data to use in identity theft.



2007 Engineer's Week

Story and Photos by
Nicole Dalrymple, PA

The 2007 National Engineer's Week was celebrated around the United States February 18-24. For the fourth consecutive year, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Louis District participated in the Engineer's Week event held at the St. Louis Science Center February 24-25.

Over 7,000 people visited the Science Center over what was a cold, rainy weekend, ideal conditions to seek entertainment indoors. District employees representing Engineering and Operations Divisions and Project Management volunteered to take time out of their weekend to promote the profession and educate the public about the Army Corps of Engineers.

Hundreds of young people and adults gathered around the District's functioning lock and dam model, which illustrates how locks and dams operate. The model, which cycles water, is a draw for kids and their parents and gives District employees a chance to discuss the lock and dam system, the navigation channel, low water and the benefits of moving bulk commodities by barge.

Onlookers were told how the lock chamber serves as a type of elevator, where instead of using steel cables or



Rivers Project's Katy Manar (foreground) instructs kids on operating the lock and dam model while Lake Shelbyville's Pam Doty encourages others to participate. The lock model was a constant draw at the two-day event.

hydraulics to move cars up and down, the Corps uses the river itself to raise and lower river traffic. They were also told how the dams serve as a type of staircase, ensuring there's enough water depth to provide a safe and dependable navigation channel.

District employees also explained the benefits of moving commodities on the river, and how just one standard hopper barge carries the equivalent of 58 large semis, or 15 jumbo hopper train cars. In the St. Louis District last year over 200 million tons of cargo traversed our five lock and dam sites.

Various reading materials were available for the public at the District's booth. Brochures and other booklets highlighted the Army Corps of Engineers, the St. Louis District and our missions, such as recreation, water safety, and environmental restoration.

The Science Center event is organized and sponsored by Ameren. This year

nine different agencies and schools participated with exhibits and demonstrations.

The University of Missouri at Columbia and Rolla had a strong showing with teams and exhibits representing a wide array of engineering specialties to include robotics; chemical, ceramic and nuclear engineering; solar cars; steel bridges; human powered vehicles; and solar energy.

Other participants included the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Gateway Biomedical Society, the National Society of Black Engineers, the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, St. Louis Community College and the US First Robotics Team 1315.

Volunteers telling the Corps story at the Science Center in 2007 included: Rich Astrack, Nicole Dalrymple, Jaynie Doerr, Pam Doty, Charlie Deutsch, Amy Henke, Steve Hobbs, Mike King and Katy Manar.



Structural Engineer Steve Hobbs talks to Science Center visitors about the purpose of locks and dams.



District's Black History Month Program Honors the Negro Baseball League



All star baseball player George Altman shares his memories and experiences with District employees.

By Nicole Dalrymple, PA

This year's Special Emphasis Program for Black History Month highlighted the Negro Baseball League, which existed from 1920 into the early 1960s. Black baseball players had played on military, college and company teams in the late 1800s, but racism and "Jim Crow" laws ended that by 1900.

After legal segregation arose, black players formed their own teams, traveling around the country and playing each other in many major U.S. cities. An organized league structure was formed in 1920, giving black players an outlet for their talents in what became known as the Negro Baseball League.

Baseball in the United States remained segregated until 1947, when Jackie Robinson was recruited from the Negro League's Kansas City Monarchs to play for the Major League's Brooklyn Dodgers.

All Star baseball player George Altman shared his memories of the Negro Baseball League with St. Louis District employees on February 21. Altman played briefly for the Negro

League in 1955, recruited right out of college by the Kansas City Monarchs. Kansas City is where the Negro League began and is home of the Negro Baseball League Museum, <http://www.nlbm.com/>.

Altman is still a tall, athletic man, looking far younger than his actual 70 plus years. He immediately had a personable, easy manner with the audience, kidding that in the beginning, "I started with nothing and right now I still have most of it."

He began playing baseball as a young child in the Carolinas, playing with potatoes as baseballs and broomstick handles as bats, because there was no money to buy the real items. The unusual sporting equipment proved a valuable learning tool. "We were pretty skilled ball players after that," he said, eliciting laughter from the audience while talking about the difficulty in hitting a potato with a broomstick handle.

After playing baseball through high school, Altman shifted to basketball in college. This led to one of the historical events in his life. While playing for Tennessee State University, the team was invited to a tournament in Kansas City in

1954. The team was to be the first black college team to play white teams. The city's segregated hotels posed a problem, Altman remembered. But after the Tennessee team refused to play unless they were allowed to stay in the same hotel as the other players, the team became the first integrators of a Kansas City hotel, Altman said proudly.

Altman's experiences playing alongside some "great, tremendous ball players" in the Negro and Major Leagues, is what most people wanted to hear about. He told of the descriptive nicknames of former Negro League baseball players. There was Ted "Double Duty" Radcliffe, who would pitch the first game and catch the second game during double headers. There was James "Cool Papa" Bell who ran so fast around that bases that a cool breeze was left in his wake. He was once clocked circling the bases in an astounding 12 seconds.

During his career in baseball, Altman said he played for three Hall of Fame coaches. The best he played for was John "Buck" O'Neil, a first baseman, and eventual manager, of the Kansas City Monarchs. Minus a three-year



Altman, a member of the 1963 St. Louis Cardinals baseball team, signs JoAnne Long's, PM, Cardinals t-shirt.



absence from playing ball while serving in the military during World War II, O'Neil was with the Monarchs from 1938-1955.

A video shown at the start of the Special Emphasis Program challenged viewers with the reality that black soldiers, serving in segregated units overseas, battled against the hatred of racism in Europe during World War II, and yet were asked to accept it here at home.

The eventual integration of the major leagues was a great thing, Altman recalled, but it was also a double-edged sword. "A lot of black businesses went out of business," he recalled, referring to the dissolution of the Negro League and all the supporting businesses that grew up around it.

Following the close of that historic chapter, Altman went on to play four years with the Chicago Cubs from 1959-1962 and one year for the St. Louis Cardinals in 1963, just one year prior to the 1964 pennant winning season.

He recalled a tense game on August 4, 1961, pitting the Chicago Cubs against Los Angeles Dodgers Hall of Fame pitcher, Sandy Koufax. Altman was having a bad year and didn't expect to be in the game, even staying up late the night before. But when he arrived at the ball park that day, he was shocked to see he was in the lineup.

What he thought was going to be a career-ending game, became a history-making game. Altman became the first person to hit two homeruns off Koufax, helping the Cubs to a 4-2 victory.

As District employees asked questions, new memories came to Altman's mind, almost like pitches from the mound. The audience could see him smile and his face light up as people, events and history came to life again for him in the federal building's second floor auditorium.

Altman was asked about the new Busch Stadium and what it was like playing in the Old Sportsman Park. He said the new ballpark is commercial but he liked it and recalled that Old Sportsman Park was a hard stadium for left-



Following the Special Emphasis Program, George Altman viewed the District's exhibits honoring the Negro Baseball League and the contributions they made.

handed hitters, of which he is one, because focus was drawn to the pavilion and not the ball.

He joked with the audience that some people think the years he played baseball were the glory years, but when he was in the major leagues the starting salary was \$4,000 a year and the mean salary was \$10,000 a year. He joked that he actually played at the wrong time. "I'd love to play now," he said with a smile, alluding to the million dollar contracts ballplayers receive today.

While exciting and rewarding, Altman recalled his Major League career being plagued by injuries. He went on to play 8 years in Japan where ballplayers trained "Kamikaze" style. Teams there held two-a-day training sessions, meetings in the evenings and bat swinging practice in the evening. There was also calisthenics and walks every morning. He said it was like being in Spring Training all the time.

The regimented workout and training routine paid off though. Altman said he played virtually injury-free the whole time and the training has stayed with him. He still gets up early every morning and stretches.

When asked about performance

enhancing drugs, Altman said his biggest concern is the health issues associated with the drugs. He said that baseball is not about strength. "In the end you still have to hit the ball and that takes timing and concentration, not strength," he said. "No amount of drugs will help a player make contact with the ball."

Following his talk, Altman autographed dozens of pictures provided by the Special Emphasis Program, one 1955 Kansas City Monarchs baseball card, as well as numerous Kansas City Monarchs hats and baseballs. The hats and baseballs were raffled off by the Equal Employment Office. Altman also made his way up to the fourth floor lobby to view the District's extensive display honoring the Negro Baseball League and its many baseball players.

While it was a shameful part of our nation's history, the segregation of its citizens based solely on the color of one's skin, the early 20th Century was also a time of resilience, life and baseball. Black American baseball players and managers proved that they would not let laws, fear or ignorance hold them back, or prevent them from enjoying camaraderie, competition and America's favorite pastime.



FUSRAP Closes Chapter, Breaks New Ground

The Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program, administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, completed excavation at the St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS) in mid-December.

The site, contaminated by low-level radioactive residue generated during the nation's early atomic weapons program, was released for unrestricted use by the Corps in early January. This concludes a 9-year effort in which over 600,000 cubic yards of contaminated material were removed.

This important milestone closes one chapter of the continuing work in the St. Louis area under the FUSRAP. The SLAPS Project has been one of the largest environmental cleanup projects in Missouri, and it is the first of three Superfund Sites in North St. Louis County to be completed.

To commemorate the completion, the St. Louis District will hold a site closeout ceremony at SLAPS on May 30 at 10 a.m.



Laborers cut and remove fencing to allow equipment access to contaminated soil along Latty Avenue in Berkeley, Mo. Work is expected to take three to four months at this particular site.

Upon completion of remedial activity at SLAPS, crews and equipment transitioned to the next remediation area near the 9100 block of Latty Avenue, in Berkeley, Mo.

The first location to undergo remediation is located on the north side of Latty Avenue. To initiate work on this property, the Corps removed the railroad tracks and fencing that blocked the remediation area, located and marked buried utilities, and coordinated with local businesses to ensure remediation work does not interrupt their operations.

On January 23, all initial preparations were completed and excavation of contaminated soil began. Trucks transport the contaminated material a short distance from the work site to the railcar loading facility at the Hazelwood Interim Storage Site. To date, remedial activities have been moving ahead as planned at several locations located throughout the property.

Due to the shallow nature of the contamination on the property, work is expected to continue for just three to four months. Once work is completed, the Corps plans to continue to remediate westward towards Coldwater Creek.

Information and photos courtesy of the FUSRAP Project Office.



The final yards of contaminated soil at the St. Louis Airport Site are excavated, bringing the total cubic yards of material removed to 600,000. A closeout ceremony is scheduled for May 30 to mark the completion of that 9-year effort.





For the second consecutive year, Stephanie Koch from Kaskaskia Lock & Dam had a winning photograph in the Corps' National Water Safety Contest. This year she won 1st place in the Commercial Boating Category. Safety is certainly a daily consideration for those operating our locks and dams as well as those traversing them. Congratulations Stephanie!



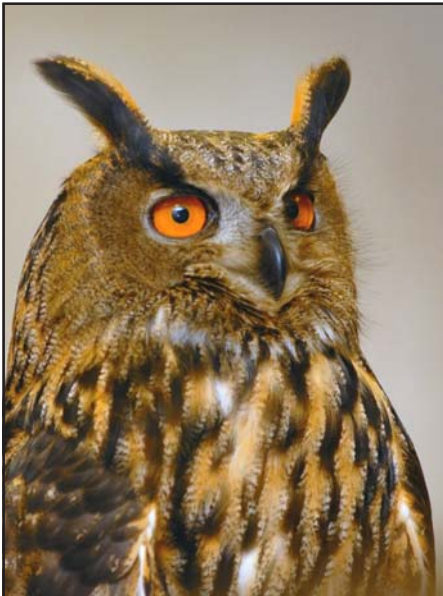
Masters of the Sky Take Over Classroom

Story and photos by Alan Dooley, PA

The Masters of the Sky program has been presented every year at the National Great Rivers Museum (NGRM) near Alton, Ill., for several years. It features close-up encounters with raptors, or birds of prey of the world, from the World Bird Sanctuary (WBS) in neighboring Valley Park, Mo.

This year the assortment of hawks, owls, a Bald Eagle and an African Vulture proved themselves not only to be masters of the sky, but showed that they are also masters of the classroom.

As first one bird and then another either flew low over the heads of people attending the program or was walked through the audience on the arms of knowledgeable handlers, “Oooohs” and “Aaahs” punctuated the otherwise quiet classroom. Feeling birds most people have never seen other than at a distance sweep close over their heads, inspired amazement and awe for the attendees.



Trevor, a Eurasian Eagle Owl from Africa seems to say, “I can see you, very, very well,” as he stares at the audience through his piercing, orange eyes. Trevor is a prime, young example of his species, which are the largest owls in the world.



Wild Bird Sanctuary education specialist and handler Jennifer Jones, shares a quiet moment after Bald Eagle, Liberty, has helped teach more than 100 people at a Masters of the Sky presentation about the world’s birds of prey. Jones has adopted Liberty by making an annual donation that is designated for his care and upkeep. Liberty is a popular attraction around the nation where he represents the sanctuary and the United States with equal dignity and beauty.

Nearly 4,800 people came to the NGRM over the three-day weekend that ended with the President’s Day holiday. Of that number, more than 900 sat in amazement to see the birds – many of them endangered – and to learn more about them.

WBS avian wildlife experts Jennifer Jones and Dana Lambert kept each group of about 100 people thoroughly enthralled as they presented one bird after another for nearly an hour. At the end of each session, attendees were able to have their pictures taken with Liberty, a nationally famous Bald Eagle and her handler Jones or to make donations to Lenore, a white-necked raven, who deftly snatched dollar and five-dollar bills from people’s fingers and stuffed them into a plexiglas donation box.

Lambert provided details about each bird and their amazing capabilities. “If owls and hawks could read, they could read small newsprint from across a football field,” Lambert told the audience. Then she sent birds flying low across the room and received them on return flights from Jones. After their

demonstration flights, the flying birds were carried slowly around the room on Jones’ arm so people could see them more closely.

Each bird’s contribution to nature was told about as they showed their capabilities or traded close-up stares with visitors. Most eat crop-destroying rodents. The vulture serves as nature’s “clean-up” crew in its native Africa.

Lambert also told the audience that ranged from youngsters to seniors about the ongoing programs of the Wild Bird Sanctuary, which celebrates its 30th birthday in 2007.

The WBS seeks first to educate the public about birds, their habitats and what we can do to help ensure the future of both of these interrelated elements. Each year they present their message to more than 1.5 million people. In addition to rescuing and rehabilitating injured raptors, the WBS also propagates and releases into the wild, several endangered species. For example, since 1991 they have raised and released more than 800 increasingly rare Barn Owls.

In another program, the WBS works



closely with the U.S. Air Force to train Air Force handlers to use falcons to eliminate the dangerous and expensive bird-plane strikes at bases nationwide.

Elsewhere during the weekend, NGRM visitors wandered through the museum, visited the Jefferson National Memorial book and gift shop or took advantage of the opportunity to take frigid, guided tours of the Melvin Price Locks and Dam outside the warm confines of the museum and visitors center. Others viewed educational videos or listened to a local story-teller and author who has written about the fabled "Piasa Bird" of Alton-area Native American mythology.

The Masters of the Sky program is just one of a seemingly endless series of educational and fun offerings that are featured throughout the year at the NGRM. While some special presentations require small fees to pay for programs, most are free. The NGRM is open to the public 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., every day except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years.



Lenore, a white-necked raven snatches a dollar bill from an attendee of the Masters of the Sky program at the NGRM and swiftly deposits in a Plexiglas donation box as handler Dana Lambert looks on. These donations are all slated to go with the birds back to the World Bird Sanctuary to support education and other work there.



An estimated 80 eagles were fishing below Lock and Dam 24 at Clarksville, Mo., on a recent cold February morning. Bald Eagles winter in the area every year, providing a draw for numerous regional events and attract thousands of bird enthusiasts and their families.



Summer 2007 at the National Great Rivers Museum

May 4, 5, 6: Wings of Spring Confluence Birding Festival

In its 2nd year, this festival stages performances by living history re-enactor John James Audubon, Phyllis Bechtold-the author of Seymour Bluffs: Legend of the Piasa Bird, and the St. Louis World Bird Sanctuary, as well as visual arts exhibits of crafts, mixed media, and photography. For more information, call the Rivers Project Office at 636-899-2600 or visit their website: www.wingsofspring.org

May 6 & 19: Get the Scoop: Live Pelican Show

A live American White Pelican, accompanied by handlers from the World Bird Sanctuary from Valley Park, Mo., will be displayed during a 30 minute presentation starting at 12, 1 and 2 p.m. This is a chance to see a live Pelican, take pictures, and ask questions.

May 19, from 1-5 p.m.: Mid America River Expo

This event features an antique boat show, boater safety class, and World Bird Sanctuary live pelican show. www.NationalSafeBoatingWeek.org

May 19: The Great River Rendezvous

This annual event will celebrate the Mississippi River Water Trail by providing paddling events and excursions as well as promoting biking, walking/hiking as well as other outdoor recreation activities. This year's event will also include the dedication of the Pool 24 section of the water trail. Contact: Kevin Dempsey 314-518-0950

June 4, at 10 a.m. and July 8 & August 12 at 2 p.m.: River Wildlife & Ecology Program

Get back to nature without breaking a sweat. Visit the National Great Rivers Museum for a special presentation of live animals featured inside our air conditioned classroom. The St. Louis Zoo will be on-hand to educate visitors about river animals. www.stlzoo.org



Spring birding at the Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary. The bird sanctuary overlook is a wonderful place to observe migrating birds in the spring and fall.



River Ranger Camp 2006 at the Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary provided programs on outdoor recreation and environmental education. The program was so popular that in 2007 it has been expanded to provide opportunities for additional age groups.



June 10, at 2 p.m.: Outdoor Photography Workshop

Encountering wildlife is a magnificent and treasured moment to share through photography. Wade Dowdy and Eric Bloemker will teach their methods for photographing nature. Bring along your camera for the workshop. All ages and experiences are welcome. Visit their websites: www.EricBloemker.com or www.AestheticPhotos.com

July 3 at 9 p.m.: Fireworks!!

The fireworks celebration will be on July 3 at 9 p.m. The Mississippi River Fireworks can be viewed from the Lincoln Shields Recreation Area, along Riverlands Way and from the esplanade park at the National Great Rivers Museum.

July 6th-July 31: River Raptors: Spectacular Views of the Mississippi Art Exhibit

Come to the museum for this wonderful exhibit that helps connect communities back to their river.



Saturday programs at the National Great Rivers Museum provide local area summer day camps an opportunity to experience the diversity of the Mississippi River by providing environmental education programming.

July 11, 18, 25 & August 1, 8, 15, at 10 a.m.: Count on It! Math Workshop

Did you know a Pelican's wings are wider than you are tall? Learn more about nature, the river, and the dam with numbers and logic. Parents are encouraged to attend. Pre-register by calling 618-462-6979. July is open to 8-10 year olds and August is open to the 11-13 year old age group.

July 15, at 2 p.m.: Creatures of Myth & Legend Program

This program separates fact from fiction about those animals that make you squirm. Discover the truth with our World Bird Sanctuary Naturalists and the live creepy creatures that star in this exciting program. www.worldbirdsanctuary.org

July 22, from 1—5 p.m.: Summerdays River Travelfest

Model boats, art show, and light refreshments will be served to celebrate the dog days of summer.

August 5, at 2 p.m.: Wild Women of the West

Here's your family's opportunity for some summer fun, wild western style. This program, performed by Edwardsville native, Karen Stoeber, is a real hootenanny.

September 1—3: 2nd Annual Paddlefest in Louisiana Missouri

Come join us as we paddle on the Mississippi River! Enjoy the beautiful scenery, kayak races, clinics, guided social paddles, food and fun. Spectators are welcome. Contact: Kevin Dempsey 314-518-0950



Girl Scout participate in an Environmental Education at the Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary.

Information about these events and more available online at www.mvs.usace.army.mil/rivers



Carlyle Lake 2007 Special Events

June 9: Carlyle Lake Summer Beach Blast

A fun filled event for the whole family. The day's events include a live radio remote, music, games, a clown, a volleyball tournament, sandcastle building contest, safety demonstrations, exhibits and more.

June 1—30: 40th Anniversary Celebration

Join in on the 40th Anniversary Celebration at Carlyle Lake. Special activities and programming throughout the month of June will lead up to a commemorative celebration on the Dam, June 30.

June 30 Fireworks Spectacular

Celebrate Independence Day at Carlyle Lake. Events and live music all day conclude with a fabulous fireworks display. Watch from boat or by shore. Sponsored by the Carlyle Lake Chamber of Commerce.



Carlyle turns 40 this year and only gets better with age! Come see for yourself what all the excitement's about.

July 14: Kaskaskia Duck Race

Watch as truckloads of rubber ducks are dumped from the dam to race down the Kaskaskia River. The fastest duck wins great prizes for its sponsor. All proceeds benefit the Healthcare Foundation.

September 15 and 16: Carlyle Lake Wine and Art Festival

This event will feature wine tasting from some of Illinois' finest wineries and an art exhibition which will showcase many talented artists from around the area. Live music and great food will also be a part of this event.

September 15 and 16: Whale of a Sail

Enjoy a mid summer regatta on Carlyle Lake hosted by the Carlyle Sailing Association. This three-course race includes, multihulls, monohulls, and cabin sailboats. This fun filled weekend of good sailing will take place in Eldon Hazlet State Park at the Carlyle Sailing Association.

September 27: Carlyle Lake Blood Drive

Stop in the Carlyle Lake Visitor Center and give a donation of blood that will save lives. One donation could save as many as three lives! Those donating will receive free camping.

October 19 and 20: Haunted Trail

Climb aboard a hay wagon at the Mariner's Village Resort and take a ride down to the Little Prairie Nature Trail where ghosts and goblins hide. All proceeds benefit the 2008 Fireworks Spectacular.

November 11: Youth Pheasant Hunt

Young hunters (accompanied by an adult) get the first chance at the designated pheasant areas at Eldon Hazlet State Park. Contact the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for more information at (618) 594-3015.

December 1—30: Festival of Lights

Drive through the Dam West Campground and enjoy the Christmas displays and lights to get you into the spirit of the season. The lights may be viewed on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings from 6 to 10 p.m.

For More Information About Events Contact:

Carlyle Lake Project Office
801 Lake Road
Carlyle, IL 62231

(618)594-2484
www.mvs.usace.army.mil/Carlyle
Carlylelake@mvs02.usace.army.mil



Senior Contributor

Daniel Courtney has to rank as our most senior contributor and maybe our eldest retiree. He's authored two memorable recollections of the Corps' river operations in the 1930s. He invited us to an organization far different than the one we know today. Judging from the stories, he must have been made from some really sturdy stock. We can only imagine what it was like in those earlier days on the Mississippi. We've come a long way!

His son Roger writes, "He is continuing in good health and will celebrate his 96th birthday this April 24."

We salute you, wish you many more years and please keep sharing those priceless memories!



Daniel Courtney currently enjoys his days in the Florida sun. This photo was taken last year.

Daniel Courtney was born in 1911:

- Federal Income Tax did not exist.
- Publishing magnate Joseph Pulitzer's will called for the establishment of the Pulitzer Prize.
- The first Indianapolis 500 race was run.
- The RMS Titanic won't be completed until next year.
- Greenwich Mean Time was adopted.
- William Howard Taft was President of the United States.
- A Ford Model T sold for as little as \$650.
- Irving Berlin wrote his first hit song, "Alexander's Rag Time Band."
- The *Mona Lisa* was stolen from the Louvre and not recovered for two years.

Caveat Emptor

Caveat Emptor is Latin for "Buyer Beware." This admonition applies to the growing marketing phenomenon of gift cards, a favorite of shoppers who have to get someone a gift but either don't have the time or concern to select it for them. "This way they can get what they want," we rationalize.

But there are a number of considerations that buyers should consider.

- First, the seller gets all of his money when they sell the card. If the receiver of the card doesn't use it immediately, you have in effect given the store an interest free loan.

- Next, if the receiver either loses the card or sets it aside and forgets it, the card's sale is 100 percent profit for the seller: "Give me your money and get nothing."

- Also, while they may be somewhat more secure than sending cash, there's a cost associated with this "insurance."

One of the relatively new major credit card gift cards, which may appeal to some givers because they can be used anywhere as opposed to cards associated with a particular merchant,

is the bank, or Visa Gift Card.

Using as an example a \$50 denomination card, you first pay a fee when you purchase the card. In an example case, the fee is \$3.95. Thus, the \$50 you plan to give will cost you \$53.95.

If the card is lost, regardless of the reason – en route home, in the mail, by the receiver after they get it – it can be replaced, minus a hefty charge. Again, using the \$50 Visa Gift Card example,



the "refund" is another card valued at \$35, which takes 3-4 weeks to arrive. Hint: Keep the folder the card comes in so you can find the 800 number to call so you can get \$35 for your \$53.95!

And all of this depends on someone owning up to losing the card.

"At least," you may say, "if they find the card later they can always use it then.

And of course, these cards may be used later when they can be combined or supplemented for a larger purchase."

Caveat Emptor!

Many gift cards, have fine-print mechanisms to prevent the accounting headache of dealing with outstanding gift cards on the company's balance sheet – and take your money back.

After a period of several months, the issuer of the card simply starts reducing the balance at some rate: in Visa's case, at the rate of \$2.50 a month until the card is worthless.

Maybe good old fashioned checks are better gift alternatives. They cost you only a few cents. You continue to draw interest on your money until the receiver gets around to depositing the check. And if your family has forgotten the courtesy of acknowledging gifts with so much as a "Thank you," at least your bank will notify you at the end of the month when they cash the check.

Or if you really want to be old fashioned, give them cash. You may at least get a hug in return!

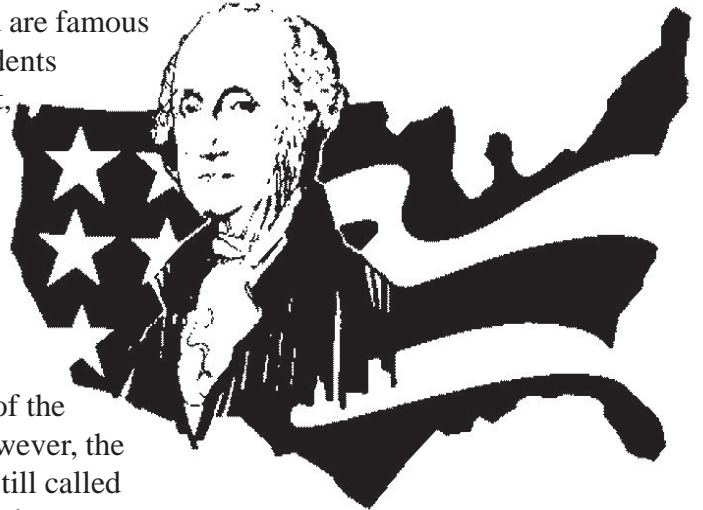
February 19, a day to honor all U.S. presidents

February 22nd is the birthday of George Washington, Father of Our Country. A few days before the birthday of George is the birth anniversary of Abraham Lincoln (February 12), who preserved the union and abolished slavery. This year the birthdays are celebrated together on Monday, February 19.

When you look at the list of U.S. presidents, you will find that all are heroic men who deserve to be honored. The list includes early presidents who helped to establish the nation such as John Adams

and Thomas Jefferson. More easily remembered are famous 20th century presidents Franklin Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, and Ronald Reagan.

Present usage often regards Presidents Day as a day to honor all former presidents of the U.S. Officially, however, the federal holiday is still called Washington's Birthday.



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